REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. In an effort to expedite the prosecution claims 3-7 and 9-15 have been canceled and more precise claims 16-21 are submitted instead.

Prior claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yanagisawa (US 5850081) in view of Tateishi (US 6282160). Prior Claims 3-7 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yanagisawa in view of Tateishi and further in view of Umezawa (5790492). The new claims 16-21 are believed to avoid the cited prior art.

According to claim 16 of the present invention, a reproducing method is presented for reproducing information from an optical disc comprising a pit recording area recorded with various control information by a prepit, and a user recording area having a guide groove as a track. The method comprises the steps of: irradiating a laser beam from a light source on the disc; receiving reflection light from the disc by a light detector, wherein the light detector having four areas defined as first area to fourth area in a first direction of a tangential line of the track and in a second direction orthogonal to the tangential line, and wherein a first pair of a first area and a second area and a second pair of a third area and a fourth area are both aligned in the first direction, a third pair of the first area and the fourth area and a fourth pair of the second area and the third area are both aligned in the second direction (Fig. 3); detecting a pit signal as a control information signal in a form of a tangential push-pull reproduced signal by using the third pair and fourth pair, when the laser beam is irradiated on the pit recording area, wherein

the tangential push-pull reproduced signal is the difference of pit signals detected by the third pair and fourth pair (see page 9, lines 15-22); detecting an user information signal as an aggregated signal by using every first to fourth area, when the laser beam is irradiated on the user recording area, wherein the aggregated signal is the aggregation of signals detected by every first to fourth area (see page 9, lines 3-7); and decoding the tangential push-pull reproduced signal or the aggregated signal.

Tateishi et al. (US 6,282,160) discloses that the adder 33 generates a total sum signal received by the entire photo-sensing area and the subtractor 34 produces a push-pull signal PP.

Tateishi fails to disclose the steps of detecting a pit signal as a control information signal in a form of a tangential push-pull reproduced signal when the laser beam is irradiated on the pit recording area and detecting a user information signal when the laser beam is irradiated on the user recording area. In detail, the optical disc disclosed in Tateishi has sectors including land and groove tracks (recording region) and ID regions different from the pit recording area and the user recording area in the present invention, and the disc player disclosed in Tateishi obtains a read signal and the push-pull signal PP from the sectors. Consequently, Tateishi fails to disclose the step of detecting the respective signal from the different sector. Further, as explained in the Remarks of the amendment filed 4/25/05, the push-pull signal PP taught by Tateishi is different from the tangential push-pull signal in the present invention.

Yanagisawa (US 5,850,081) discloses a tangential push-pull signal which is the output difference between the respective addition outputs of the element pairs DET1, DET2 and DET3, DET4, in column 8 lines 1-8 and Figure. 7. Yanagisawa fails to disclose the steps of detecting a pit signal as a control information signal in a form of a

tangential push-pull reproduced signal when the laser beam is irradiated on the pit recording area and detecting a user information signal when the laser beam is irradiated on the user recording area. That is, Yanagisawa also fails to disclose the step of detecting the respective signal from the different sector.

Therefore, the combination of Tateishi and Yanagisawa fails to teach the entire claimed invention and as a result there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21994-00026-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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